

SURPRISED BRITONS

Tone of the President's Message Shocks the London Editors.

THEY DEPRECATE ITS THREAT OF WAR

Profess to Believe that the President is Insincere in His Utterance.

WILL "TEACH US A NEEDED LESSON"

Half-Cocked Expressions of Some Minor Public Men is Bellissimo.

ONE OFFICER ANTICIPATES THE RESULT

Frankly Admits that Englishmen Here Underestimated the Strength and War Spirit of the South and West.

Copyright, 1895, by Press Publishing Company. LONDON, Dec. 18.—(Special Telegram.)—Except for the morning newspapers will say, full extracts from which the Associated Press is sending you, it is impossible to get before tomorrow any expression of fully informed English opinion on President Cleveland's message. No intimation whatever concerning it was published in any afternoon paper. The first words of the message indeed only began coming into the newspaper offices at 9 p. m., or 4 o'clock New York time.

Such few public men as could be seen tonight declined to express any opinion over their names until they should see the message itself, and they all declined to accept the synopsis of its purport as given by your correspondent as possibly correct. They consider it preposterous that the president should seriously propose that the United States commission should alone decide the boundary between Great Britain and Venezuela, and falling acceptance by Great Britain of its investigations and conclusion, that the president should as seriously declare that the United States would enforce the decision of the commission. If, however, the message did propose such a "preposterous" contention, and it was sustained by the American congress and people, there would be nothing left to Great Britain but to teach "the United States a needed lesson."

These expressions, however, are, as I have said, the hasty remarks of not very influential persons. The Christmas holidays have taken the leaders of both political parties to their own country homes or to the country houses of friends, and no English telegraph office in the country is open after 8 p. m. Lord Rosebery is in Spain, Harcourt is at Melwood in Hampshire, Chamberlain is probably at Birmingham, Lord Salisbury is at Hatfield, the earl of Spencer is in India, and the duke of Devonshire left Birmingham yesterday for Chatsworth. Parliament is not to meet until February, and the members will not be in London until then. The first cabinet minister to speak, and who may possibly refer publicly to the president's message, will be Sir Michael Hicks Beach, chancellor of the exchequer, who will address a meeting at Bristol next Thursday.

SURPRISE OF THE EDITORS. They at the newspaper offices tonight editors expressed utter surprise and amazement at the tenor of the message. So far as I could learn their disposition in this morning's issues is to discount the probability or possibility of any serious controversy between the two governments to the point of an armed conflict. One of the most prominent of these gentlemen said this morning, having just finished his editorial to a very pacific effect, that the proposed United States commission could at best finish its work not before a year or more, and that Lord Salisbury need not meanwhile either take any aggressive steps toward enforcing Great Britain's claim to the disputed territory nor interfere with the operations of the commission; nor, indeed, recognize it, nor pay any attention to it. In this case there could not be any occasion for the long time to come for any further clash between the two governments, and they could be relied upon to show the barbaric absurdity of a war between two great Anglo-Saxon nations on such a trifling cause of dispute.

"A war between these peoples," he said, "would mean the Russification of all Europe. The United States could not willfully precipitate that inevitable result for such a question as that involved in Venezuela even if, as it does not, it involved the whole policy enunciated by President Monroe and amplified by President Cleveland."

As I have pointed out in previous dispatches, however, no English newspapers or English public men generally have any idea that there is really considerable sentiment in the United States for the enforcement of the Monroe doctrine to the point of a war with Great Britain or any leading foreign power. They consider, or profess to consider, the question new at issue as a political rhetoric of politicians only, and merely meant to have effect upon the next presidential election.

CONSIDER THE WAR VERY UNLIKELY.

Mr. Massingham, editor of the Chronicle, expresses this in his concluding sentences of his leader this morning: "President Cleveland speaks in a strange vein in which nothing in his previous career corresponds, of what the United States will do when its commission has determined what of right belongs to Venezuela and republicans are already busy in trying to trump this trick, but what if the commission finds we are well within our rights? Well, we will not say that by that time the presidential election will be over, and that there will be no further need for patriotic messages. We will only express genuine regret at the tone of the document, which meets an argument of Lord Salisbury, and which applies a threat of force from a obscure state to her mother land, over an obscure and trumping dispute in which the United States have no real interest. But the message cannot obscure or defeat the affection that subsists between the two countries, or break the ties of blood that must needs bind them as indissoluble union."

It seems to be little doubt in the average Englishman's mind that the result of a war between the two countries would be our speedy humiliation, but on the other hand, I had a few evenings since a somewhat remarkable, although casual interview with a thoughtful and prominent English retired officer. He said:

POINTS, and I am inclined to believe that the south and west especially would welcome war with the United States on almost any excuse. Your southern people would like a war for war's sake and to rehabilitate themselves as patriots, as well. A foreign war would finally banish the last remnant of sectional feeling, with all that would imply, in settling the negro question satisfactorily to the south. The news from Canada and Vermont says now in case of war with the United States the landing of any European force on United States soil would be madness with your seventy millions against our thirty-six. I doubt if an effective English fleet could successfully sail across and bombard any of your seaport cities, especially as you would inevitably overtake Canada within a fortnight after the declaration of war, and we would therefore lose Halifax as one of our bases of operation. But a dozen fast cruisers preying upon our commerce would do vastly more damage to us than we could do to you by really bombarding New York and Boston at the only range we could hope to secure. Remember what Paul Jones did with a slow sloop only to our commerce actually in English waters, and what the Alabama accomplished with no navy to support her, and a numerous and even powerful navy in opposition. I fear we would be suing for peace three months after the declaration of war. But such a war would be a frightful calamity to both peoples and retard the march of civilization centuries."

UBANS MOVING ON HAVANA

In Spite of Reported Defeats Insurgents Continue an Aggressive Campaign.

SPAIN UNABLE TO CHECK THEIR PROGRESS

Combined Armies of Gomez and Maceo Gradually Concentrating and a Decisive Battle Must Soon Be Fought.

HAVANA, Dec. 17.—The insurgents, in spite of the reports of their defeats, have crossed the military lines between the cities of Santa Clara and Cienfuegos, the headquarters of General Campos, and their advance guards are now in sight of Las Lajas, well to the westward of Santa Clara, showing that the Spaniards have been utterly unable to check their progress since they crossed the frontier of Santa Clara from Puerto Principe, at Iguala.

Everything shows the insurgents to be moving toward Matanzas, and Campos is on his way there to take command of the Spanish forces which must soon meet those of Gomez and Maceo at pitched battle.

The battle of Maitimo, half way between the city of Santa Clara and Cienfuegos, in which, according to an account received here, a Spanish force of 500 troops under Colonel Arizon was said to have met the main body of the insurgents under Maximino Gomez, numbering about 2,000 men, and the latter, by another engagement at Peralto, where the troops lost sixty-five killed and the insurgents had 399 killed and wounded. A lieutenant colonel and his major died afterward from wounds received during this fight.

These "repulses" of the insurgents and the announcement of the heavy loss they are said to have incurred, have prevented them from passing steadily onward, and so the Spanish forces must be in retreat or defeated beyond concentration.

The Spanish military news for the Spaniards is the dispatch announcing the insurgents to be in sight of Las Lajas, showing the combined armies of Maceo and Gomez to have been defeated at Peralto, where the Spaniards are said to have lost 399 men.

It was at Santa Clara that Campos made his headquarters from where he prepared to direct his operations, and he had to hurl the enemy back in confusion. Later he changed his headquarters to Cienfuegos, southeast of Santa Clara, now the chief Spanish stronghold. The object of the Spanish force of 500 men, which was sent to Santa Clara, was to prevent the insurgents from being caught from their rear on one of the narrowest parts of the island by all the Spanish troops they could bring westward. The next two weeks, consequently, should settle matters one way or the other.

PHILISTERS MADE A LANDING. Secured Arms and Ammunition and are expected to enter the interior.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—(Special Telegram.)—A dispatch received by a member of the Venezuelan colony in this city announces the landing near Coro of another formidable expedition sent from Curacao by a wing of the revolutionary party. General Ubbio Diaz and General Mendez, until lately members of President Crespig's military cabinet, left Curacao for Caracas as soon as the revolution began. At Curacao they offered their services to the revolutionary junta and turned over to it the arms and ammunition which they had brought with them. The junta immediately organized an expedition and proceeded to Trinidad, 2,000 miles from the coast. It has been in land there for some time and bought a lot of ammunition, machetes, American revolvers, cartridges and hospital stores. The last expedition was twenty men, who besides the two generals. They sailed from Curacao in an English tramp steamer. The steamer's arrival in Coro was the signal for the start of the expedition to the interior, which carried the Monagas expedition from Newport News to Venezuela, has been chartered by the revolutionists to be used as a transport for the expedition, and is now carrying arms and men to Venezuela.

The latest dispatches report that the Venezuelan government continues to display animosity to the square facing the Casa Armarilla that the revolution is ended and that the leaders of all rebel bands are in jail, but within a day General Alvarez has sent to La Guayra with a letter which suppress an outbreak there. The Guayra is only ten miles from the national capital, Caracas. Alvarez has ordered the government that the rebels escaped to the interior before he arrived. The revolution has reached the state of Miranda, the home of President Crespig, and the plantations are in danger of destruction at the hands of the rebels. General Crespo has ordered troops to Miranda to protect his property.

GEN. GOMEZ MET WITH DEFEAT. Spanish Loss Reported to Be Insignificant, but Insurgents Heavy.

HAVANA, Dec. 17.—An important engagement is reported at Matanzas, province of Santa Clara, in which a force of troops under Colonel Arizon met the main force of the insurgents under Gomez to the number of 6,000. The combat is reported to have been a fierce one and long continued.

Maitimo is near Cienfuegos, and equal distance from the city of Santa Clara. The battle was fought between the city of Santa Clara and Cienfuegos and eighteen miles from each. It is also about twenty miles west of Saguan, in the neighborhood of where the insurgents' main body was last reported. Las Cruces is on the railway between Santa Clara, General Campos' headquarters, and Cienfuegos.

The Spaniards were driven under the command of Arizon, numbering about 399, together with 300 of the battalion Canarios under a lieutenant colonel. This force sustained an unenviable contest with Gomez' insurgents, who renewed the engagement after having been once driven back, but they were finally repulsed with heavy loss. The loss of the Spaniards was two officers and thirty soldiers killed and four officers and forty soldiers wounded. Colonel Arizon at the close of the engagement was left in possession of the field.

The expedition under Martinez and Pujols has effected a landing near Manzanillo with arms and ammunition and a rapid firing gun. Four American artillerymen are in this party.

Revenue Schooner Lost. HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 17.—It is believed that the Newfoundland schooner Argonaut has been lost with all on board. She was the colony's revenue cruiser at Labrador last last season and after going out of commission took a cargo of fish at St. John's for Halifax. She left the former place twenty-seven days ago and since that nothing has been heard or seen of her.

Official Correspondence Published. LONDON, Dec. 17.—The note of Secretary Olney to the marquis of Salisbury on the Venezuelan question and the reply of the marquis thereto were published in the Official Gazette tonight.

PREACHER CREATES A SENSATION.

Iowa Ministers' "New Woman" Idea Provokes a Sensation.

JEFFERSON, Ia., Dec. 17.—(Special Telegram.)—Rev. D. R. Landis, pastor of the Baptist church of this place, announced through the local papers that he would preach Sunday night upon the theme, "The New Woman; What She Wants and What She Does." The house was crowded. The minister took for his text the story of the woman of Samaria, and the word, and how, after she was converted, she became a new woman. He also took occasion to preface his discourse with some remarks that were somewhat unexpected. He formerly preached at the suggestion of religious war his audience being smaller; that there were members of his church present who had not been in attendance at an evening service made in the church by republican senators today, the members of the upper house being worked up to a state of patriotic fervor unknown in these latter times over President Cleveland's message. The opinion is general that in view of the extraordinary conditions caused by the message, there must be no adjournment consented to by republicans until the senate committees are fully organized and ready for active work. It was emphatically given out that the committee on foreign relations must stillering recess, and be ready to report promptly immediately after congress meets a plan to carry the president's recommendations into effect. It is believed the senate will not delay committee organization, for if adjournment had been without, many days in January would likely be used up in securing organization. In consideration of this, every republican senator has been urged to remain here until committee organization is perfected, and even pairs will be frowned upon in view of the peculiar condition of the senate. Senator Thurston had made all arrangements to accompany R. K. Keene of St. Louis in his private car to the Atlanta exposition to remain there until Friday, but the peculiar state of affairs compelled him to remain here.

All the republican senators heartily approved the dignified, courageous and patriotic stand taken by the president, partisan feeling being completely transcended, and expressed a willingness to join the administration in upholding the dignity of the government and enforcing the Monroe doctrine.

The leading members of the house received it with like expressions of approval, the Nebraska delegation being particularly hearty in their commendations. It is not really feared that war will be an outcome of the trouble. It is held that England cannot afford to go to war with the United States, for the reason that she has too many interests at stake to take the chances of war. Congressman Mercer says: "England has too many important holdings of title in this country to be subjected to confiscation to warrant her sacrificing all for a few miles of largely overdone country in Venezuela. It is a case of bluff and bluster."

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS ENDORSED. In the senate caucus today the republicans agreed to the committee assignments made by the steering committee, but not without a heart-breaking and considerable display of temper on the part of some senators who have been almost ignored by the committee having committees in their own names. The assignments were splendidly placed, although it is regretted that Warren did not succeed to Pacific railroads, for which he was peculiarly fitted.

The members took the following assignments: Allen—Foreign reservations (chairman), claims, Indian affairs, public lands, transportation, routes to seaboard, transportation of mail, education and labor, anniversary of the United States.

South Dakota senators receive: Pettigrew—Indian affairs (chairman), appropriations, claims, Indian affairs, public lands, relations with Canada, international expositions, Kyle—University of the United States (chairman), education and labor, Indian reservations.

Mark Pollock and Mike O. Maul were Omaha visitors at the capital today.

TO RESTRICT RECRUITING. As the army is now closely approaching its complement, the following restrictions will be put in force: General Ruggles, recruiting will be restricted until further orders to the enlistment of exceptionally desirable recruits and former soldiers of the United States Army.

Change at Fort Washakie. LANDER, Wyo., Dec. 17.—(Special Telegram.)—Captain Lord, Ninth United States cavalry, has been placed in command of Fort Washakie, Major Kramer, his predecessor, having been transferred to Fort Leavenworth.

COME TO AN AMICABLE AGREEMENT. MILWAUKEE, Dec. 17.—Judge Jenkins today sanctioned an amicable settlement between the receivers of the Northern Pacific and St. Paul & Duluth Railway companies relative to the much disputed right of way of the main line of the Northern Pacific road through the counties of Carlton, Athol and Crow Wing, in Minnesota. The Duluth & St. Paul Railway, which has the right of way under its congressional and swamp land grants, the Northern Pacific laid claim to a strip of land 400 feet wide for the entire length of the line, and the St. Paul & Duluth company has agreed to convey a clear title to the Northern Pacific receivers of a strip fifty feet in width on each side of the tracks of the company in return for a clear title to the remaining 150 feet of land on each side of the roadway, and also to pay at the rate of \$3 per acre for the land included within the fifty feet. This will give the Northern Pacific an absolute and clear title to the right of way at the cost of but \$31 per mile.

Portland Hate War Ended. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17.—The war rate to Portland between the Southern Pacific and Oregon Railway and Navigation company, which has been in progress about a month, is ended. The Southern Pacific officials here decided to advance rates from this city to Portland on Christmas day and from Portland to San Francisco on January 1st and the first-class rate of \$10 will be raised to \$15 and the second-class rate of \$5 to \$7.50.

HIS BIRD RECORD BOTHERED HIM. Ex-Convict Committed Suicide in a SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 17.—(Special Telegram.)—Max Troutwein was found dead in the hotel at Wallace, Idaho, this morning from morphine poisoning. Whether it was taken with suicidal intent cannot be determined as yet. Troutwein was sentenced from this city to serve a term of five years in the penitentiary for his jury caught and when he robbed, was instrumental in securing his pardon, and when he returned he found a good position with the Tiger Mining company at Burke, Idaho. It is thought the allusion to his prison record by his associates drove him to suicide.

Movements of Ocean Vessels, Dec. 17. New York—Arrived—La Champagne, from Havre.

ROUSES PATRIOTIC FERVOR

President Cleveland's Message Stirs the Blood of Sedate Senators.

REPUBLICANS IN LINE WITH ITS TONE

Sentiments of the Executive Endorsed and a Determination to Make His Recommendations Effective Expressed by All.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—(Special Telegram.)—Several very strong speeches were made in the caucus of republican senators today, the members of the upper house being worked up to a state of patriotic fervor unknown in these latter times over President Cleveland's message. The opinion is general that in view of the extraordinary conditions caused by the message, there must be no adjournment consented to by republicans until the senate committees are fully organized and ready for active work. It was emphatically given out that the committee on foreign relations must stillering recess, and be ready to report promptly immediately after congress meets a plan to carry the president's recommendations into effect. It is believed the senate will not delay committee organization, for if adjournment had been without, many days in January would likely be used up in securing organization. In consideration of this, every republican senator has been urged to remain here until committee organization is perfected, and even pairs will be frowned upon in view of the peculiar condition of the senate. Senator Thurston had made all arrangements to accompany R. K. Keene of St. Louis in his private car to the Atlanta exposition to remain there until Friday, but the peculiar state of affairs compelled him to remain here.

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Movements of Ocean Vessels, Dec. 17. New York—Arrived—La Champagne, from Havre.

BOOMING ALLISON'S INTERESTS.

Iowa Republicans Think He is a Strong Presidential Candidate.

DES MOINES, Dec. 17.—(Special Telegram.)—The republican state central committee today engaged headquarters in the city and will keep a force, headed by State Chairman McMillan and Treasurer G. B. Bray, at work managing the Allison interest all over the national campaign.

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TAKES A FIRM STAND

President Sends an Incisive Message to Congress on the Venezuelan Question.

MONROE DOCTRINE HELD APPLICABLE

Its Enforcement Essential to the Maintenance of National Integrity.

BOUNDARY DISPUTE SHALL BE SETTLED

If England Will Not Settle it the United States Must.

STAND TAKEN MEETS GENERAL APPROVAL

Messages of Endorsement Coming in From All Sections Regardless of Party—Contents of the Message Cabled to Venezuela.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The message of President Cleveland to congress, transmitting the correspondence between Secretary Olney and Lord Salisbury relative to the Venezuelan boundary dispute, created a real sensation in Washington today. Although the nature of Secretary Olney's vigorous communication and of Lord Salisbury's answers had been already accurately reported in the Associated Press, the news from Washington and London, there was still greater popular eagerness to learn just how the president would deal with Lord Salisbury's refusal to submit the matter to arbitration, and the message was listened to with intense interest in congress and was read with avidity.

Nowhere was there a voice lifted in dissent from this doctrine so firmly laid down by the president, but on the contrary there was an outburst of patriotic feeling that must have been highly gratifying to the chief executive. In the dignified United States senate, a body that rarely exhibits emotion on any occasion, there was witnessed the unparalleled spectacle of hand-clapping and applause which was the spontaneous expression of the approval of almost every senator, without regard to party. On the streets the message was discussed and old veterans of the late war talked exultantly of what they were prepared again to undertake at the call of their country. In the employ hall of the pension building, the great gathered and sang with gusto "The Boy Who Sailed," and with gusto "The Boy Who Sailed."

At the white house messages poured in from every quarter of the country congratulating the president upon his message. They came from men of all parties and of all stations and they began to come in soon after the delivery of the document to congress.

The matter, of course, was of the greatest interest in diplomatic circles and the general impression on a sober second consideration of the notes was that the matter has not yet reached a stage where war is imminent and that the hint of Great Britain's intention to reopen negotiations with Venezuela looking to a settlement of the dispute between themselves, perhaps may be regarded as the indication of how the whole matter will end.

CABLED TO VENEZUELA. Minister Andrade of Venezuela secured a copy of the message early in the day and cabled it by way of Cuba and Hayti to his government. The time of transmission is eight hours, and it is felt that its reception at Caracas will be the signal for an enthusiastic outburst.

Minister Andrade's satisfaction was almost beyond the power of expression. "The message is superb," said he, with much enthusiasm. "It is even a surprise to me in its vigor, in the nobility of the sentiments expressed and in the mastery of exposition